instead of three days a week being run at present in view of their long waiting lists and non-availability of reservation for months together; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): (a) and (b) Frequency of 5631/5632 Barmer/Bikaner-Jodhpur-Guwahati Express has been increased from weekly to bi-weekly from 03.07.2003. Further increase in its frequency to tri-weekly and that of 2975/2976 Jaipur-Mysore Express from bi-weekly to 4 days a week and 2967/2968 Jaipur-Chennai Express from bi-weekly to daily is not feasible, at present, due to operational and resource constraints.

Production enhancement of fertilizers

†*97. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have fixed any target for increasing the production capacity of chemical fertilizers during Eleventh Plan in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the target;

(c) the number of projects having additional production capacity likely to be set up in country to achieve this target; and

(d) the total amount of capital required to be invested for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (d) No target for increased production of chemical fertilizers has been set for the Eleventh Five Year Plan. However, the Working Group on Fertilizers for the Eleventh Plan has projected a requirement of 287.55 lakh metric tonne (LMT) of Urea, 95.10 LMT of Di-Ammonium Phosphate (DAP) and 37.40 LMT of Muriate of Potash (MoP) by 2011-12. The total installed operational capacity for production of Urea and DAP in the country is 197.01 LMT and 72.99 LMT respectively.

No production capacity of MoP is expected to be set up in Eleventh Plan as there are no economically exploitable reserves of potash in the country. The production of phosphatic fertilizers in the country is dependent upon availability and price of raw materials/intermediates in the international market. Hence, additional capacity creation for production of DAP cannot be anticipated definitely.

The additional production capacity of Urea in the country during the Eleventh Plan is expected to come through revival of closed units of Fertilizer Corporation of India Ltd. and Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Ltd., setting up of brownfield & greenfield projects, and capacity addition through revamp of existing units. Though, no definite estimate of total required investment is possible at present, it is estimated

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

that a 1 million tonne production capacity plant of urea will cost approximately Rs. 3500 crore.

Shortage of fertilizers

*98. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that there are reports of shortage of fertilizers in various States;

(b) whether Government are also aware that delayed supply or created paucity of fertilizers is adding fuel to fire;

(c) if so, whether Government are considering to take necessary steps against erring suppliers and transporters; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (d) Sufficient availability of fertilizers was ensured in each of the months in Kharif 2007.

The cumulative availability and cumulative sales of Urea, DAP and MoP upto 31st July, 2007 have been reported as follows:

(Lakh metric Tonnes)

UREA		DAP		MoP	
Availability	Sales	Availability	Sales	Availability	Sales
86.79	70.77	24.55	20.17	10.25	7.39

The following steps have been taken to ensure adequate availability with reference to month-wise assessed requirement :

(a) Pre-positioning of stocks;

(b) Payment of primary freight in respect of urea on actual basis;

(c) District-wise, company-wise plan;

(d) Monitoring of movement as per plan through web based Fertilizer Monitoring System; and

(e) Payment of subsidy on fertilizers reaching the District level.

Urea is the only fertilizer, which at present is under partial movement and distribution control of the Government of India. The State Governments are adequately empowered by the provisions of the Fertilizer (Control) Order to take action against anybody deliberately creating shortage of fertilizers.